Religious and Charitable Endowments

Nominations to Negapatam and Tanjore Temple Committees.

*1795 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government nominated the members of the Negapatam and Tanjore Temple Committees in 1927–28 only for a period of six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that by the expiry of the said period of six months the respective temple committees had prepared the electoral rolls, arranged for elections and even fixed the dates for nomination of candidates and election;

(c) whether it is a fact that the temple committees were prepared to have elections; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government have again nominated the members of the said temple committees; and if so, why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The Government have no definite information but have reasons to think that the electoral rolls were ready.

(d) Yes. Nominations were made to the Tanjore Temple Committee because the Committee or the Hindu Religious Endowments Board could not provide the cost of holding elections. As regards the Negapatam Temple Committee, the Board first recommended its abolition as it failed to allot members for the different circles forming the electoral area and as it was not working properly even otherwise. The Government, however, preferred to form a new committee with appointed members.

Bills

Introduction of Bills relating to Marumakkattayam system of law.

*1796 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Karant, M.L.C., and Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar, M.L.C., have applied to the Government for sanction of the Governor-General to introduce Bills relating to the Marumakkattayam system of law;

(b) what the last occasion was when the Government conducted an enquiry into the working of the Marumakkattayam system; and

(c) whether the Government intend to appoint a committee to enquire into and report about the evils of the Marumakkattayam system and the changes that should be made in that system?

A.—(a) Yes; and the sanction asked for was accorded and communicated to the hon. Members in question.

(b) & (c) Opinions were collected on the occasions when Bills were proposed on the subject, but as no such Bill was introduced in the Council, Government so far had no occasion to constitute any committee of enquiry or to formulate a definite opinion.

Mr. K. P. Raman Menon:—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to appoint a committee as soon as possible?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I shall consider the suggestion."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I know why the sanction of the Governor has not been given to my Bill though it is nearly a year since I asked for it ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Probably sanction of the Governor is not necessary. That is all I can say at present, Sir."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Will the hon. the Law Member look into the matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir, certainly."

Forests

Appointment of a committee to enquire into forest grievances.

* 1797 *Q.*—Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to appoint a committee to enquire into the forest grievances ; and

(*b*) if not, what action they are going to take regarding the resolution passed in the Council recommending the appointment of such a committee ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether orders will be passed on the matter at least by the end of this year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir, as I have said several times, I shall certainly settle the question after the budget discussion is over."

Inland Waterways

Restrictions on vessels plying for hire in the Godavari river.

* 1798 *Q.*—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to answer given to question No. 1248 on 1st February 1929, whether the Government have imposed or propose to impose proper restrictions with reference to the seaworthiness and capacity of the plyers to secure safety to passengers ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to clause (*b*) of his question No. 1242 on 31st January 1929.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government intend to safeguard the safety of the passengers from one place to another alongside the river, i.e., not merely of persons crossing the river in boats but alongside the river ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not quite understand what the Member means. If he means along the river, the answer is, ' Yes '."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the application of the Canals and Ferries Act refer to passengers along the river ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" At present, the Government is under the impression that it will."